

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for facilitating part qualification
- 2 functions in a communications network environment,
- 3 comprising:
- 4 receiving at a host system a request by a user system
- 5 to execute part qualification software wherein the host
- 6 system and the user system are connected to the
- 7 communications network;
- 8 executing said part qualification software at the host
- 9 system;
- 10 sending results of said executing to the user system;
- 11 receiving input at the host system from the user system
- 12 in response to said executing; and
- 13 providing the user system with output generated as a
- 14 result of said executing.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein executing said part
2 qualification software comprises:
3 selecting a commodity type, wherein said commodity type
4 is associated with a supplier part;
5 creating a part qualification plan template for said
6 commodity type;
7 using said template to create a part qualification plan
8 for said supplier part;
9 updating said part qualification plan with data
10 specific to said supplier part;
11 analyzing said data;
12 qualifying said supplier part based on said analyzing
13 said data.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising an archive
2 tool for said part qualification plan.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein said part
2 qualification plan template comprises:
3 types of data required to qualify said commodity type;
4 proposed data repositories for storing said data;
5 assigned default viewing tool based on said proposed
6 data repositories;
7 a text message field; and
8 access permissions structure.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein said part
2 qualification plan template further comprises a detailed
3 plan framework comprising:
4 a plurality of tasks;
5 suggested durations for each said plurality of tasks;
6 and
7 at least one entity responsible for each said plurality
8 of tasks.

1 6. The method of claim 2, wherein said part
2 qualification plan comprises:
3 types of data required to qualify said supplier part;
4 proposed data repositories for storing said data;
5 assigned default viewing tool based on said proposed
6 data repositories;
7 a text message field; and
8 access permissions structure.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said qualification
2 plan further comprises a detailed plan comprising:
3 a plurality of tasks;
4 target dates for each said plurality of tasks;
5 status information for each said plurality of tasks;
6 and
 entity responsible for each said plurality of tasks.

1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein said text message
2 field includes a document link.

1 9. The method of claim 6 wherein said text message
2 field includes a hypertext link.

1 10. The method of claim 6 wherein said text message
2 field includes a file name.

1 11. The method of claim 6 wherein said text message
2 field includes a comment.

1 12. The method of claim 6 wherein said proposed data
2 repositories are remote to said host system.

1 13. The method of claim 2 wherein said analyzing said
2 data includes selecting and viewing an item in said list.

1 14. The method of claim 2 wherein said analyzing said
2 data includes running reports against detailed plans and
3 viewing said reports.

1 15. The method of claim 1 wherein said request is
2 initiated by a supplier and access is restricted to supplier
3 data.

1 16. The method of claim 1 wherein said request is
2 initiated by a supplier and access is restricted to supplier
3 application functions.

1 17. The method of claim 1 wherein said request is
2 initiated by an entity of said host system and access to
3 information is restricted based on access permissions
4 employed by said host system.

1 18. The method of claim 1 wherein said request is
2 initiated by an entity of said host system and access to
3 creating templates and creating part qualification plans is
4 restricted based on access permissions employed by said host
5 system.

1 19. The method of claim 1 wherein said user system is
2 remote to said host system.

1 20. A system for facilitating part qualification
2 functions in a communications network environment,
3 comprising:
4 a host system including a web server, an applications
5 server, and a database server;
6 at least one data storage device in communication with
7 said host system;
8 part qualification software being executed by said host
9 system;
10 a firewall in communication with said host system;
11 a workstation; and
12 a computer network connecting the host system to the
13 workstation; wherein information inputted into the
14 workstation is transferred to the host system and made
15 available to the part qualification software.

1 21. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable
2 computer program code for facilitating part qualification
3 functions in a communications network environment, the
4 storage medium including instructions for causing an
5 enterprise system to implement a method comprising:
6 receiving at a host system a request by a user system
7 to execute part qualification software wherein said host
8 system and said user system are connected to said
9 communications network;
10 executing said part qualification software at the host
11 system;
12 sending results of said execution of said software to
13 the user system;
14 receiving input at the host system from the user system
15 in response to said execution of said software; and
16 providing the user system with output generated as a
17 result of said execution of said software.

1 22. The storage medium of claim 21 wherein executing
2 said part qualification software comprises:
3 selecting a commodity type, wherein said commodity type
4 is associated with a supplier part;
5 creating a part qualification plan template for said
6 commodity type;
7 using said template to create a part qualification plan
8 for said supplier part;
9 updating said part qualification plan with data
10 specific to said supplier part;
11 analyzing said data;
12 qualifying said supplier part based on said analyzing
13 said data.

1 23. The storage medium of claim 22 further comprising
2 instructions for causing a computer to implement:
3 an archive tool for said part qualification plan.

1 24. The storage medium of claim 22, wherein said part
2 qualification plan template comprises:
3 types of data required to qualify said commodity type;
4 proposed data repositories for storing said data;
5 assigned default viewing tool based on said proposed
6 data repositories;
7 a text message field; and
8 access permissions structure.

1 25. The storage medium of claim 24 wherein said part
2 qualification plan template further comprises a detailed
3 plan framework comprising:
4 a plurality of tasks;
5 suggested durations for each said plurality of tasks;
6 and
7 at least one entity responsible for each said plurality
8 of tasks.

1 26. The storage medium of claim 22, wherein said part
2 qualification plan comprises:
3 types of data required to qualify said supplier part;
4 proposed data repositories for storing said data;
5 assigned default viewing tool based on said proposed
6 data repositories;
7 a text message field; and
8 access permissions structure.

1 27. The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said
2 qualification plan further comprises a detailed plan
3 comprising:
4 a plurality of tasks;
5 target dates for each said plurality of tasks;
6 status information for each said plurality of tasks;
7 and
8 entity responsible for each said plurality of tasks.

1 28. The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said text
2 message field includes a document link.

1 29. The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said text
2 message field includes a hypertext link.

1 30. The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said text
2 message field includes a file name.

1 31. The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said text
2 message field includes a comment.

1 32. The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said
2 proposed data repositories are remote to said host system.

1 33. The storage medium of claim 22 wherein said
2 analyzing said data includes selecting and viewing an item
3 in said list.

1 34. The storage medium of claim 22 wherein said
2 analyzing said data includes running reports against
3 detailed plans and viewing said reports.

1 35. The storage medium of claim 21 wherein said
2 request is initiated by a supplier and access is restricted
3 to supplier data.

1 36. The storage medium of claim 21 wherein said
2 request is initiated by a supplier and access is restricted
3 to supplier application functions.

1 37. The storage medium of claim 21 wherein said
2 request is initiated by an entity of said host system and
3 access to information is restricted based on access
4 permissions employed by said host system.

1 38. The storage medium of claim 21 wherein said
2 request is initiated by an entity of said host system and
3 access to creating templates and creating part qualification
4 plans is restricted based on access permissions employed by
5 said host system.

1 39. The storage medium of claim 21 wherein said user
2 system is remote to said host system.